

**A RESOLUTION BY
PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING FOR TRAINING OF CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM ("CIT") POLICE OFFICERS; AND TO ESTABLISH A MORE VIABLE PROGRAM FOR POLICE INTERVENTION WITH MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the de-institutionalization of the mentally ill became the mental health industry policy and standard throughout the United States in or about the early 1980's; and

WHEREAS, many de-institutionalized mentally ill individuals worsen their mental disease and/or disorder by not receiving necessary outpatient treatment and by self medicating with alcohol and drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, such de-institutionalized mentally ill individuals display detrimental anti-social behavior, are unable to maintain steady employment, and cannot reside with family members; and

WHEREAS, many of these mentally ill individuals live on the streets of the City of Atlanta and survive by engaging in aggressive panhandling and petty thefts; and

WHEREAS, mentally ill individuals often enter a crisis mode and become violent and aggressive, resulting in ungovernable confrontations with law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta Department of Police established a CIT to effectively intervene and interact with such mentally ill offenders; and

WHEREAS, a grant funded CIT program would provide CIT officers with the requisite training and equipment to enhance officer response to mentally ill offenders by appropriately diffusing potentially violent encounters and, ultimately, referring such mentally ill offenders to the appropriate mental health service providers.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed three-hundred thousand dollars and no cents (\$300,000.00) for the sole purpose of providing Crisis Intervention Team Police Officers training and equipment to respond to mentally ill offenders.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that no matching funds are required as a condition for this grant.